

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1318 Session of  
2008

INTRODUCED BY WAUGH, RAFFERTY, PUNT, BOSCOLA, O'PAKE, ARMSTRONG,  
ORIE, EARLL, WOZNIAK AND PICCOLA, MARCH 19, 2008

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 19, 2008

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," providing for a prototypical school  
6 facility design clearinghouse.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 732.1. Prototypical School Facility Design  
13 Clearinghouse.--(a) (1) The Department of Education shall  
14 establish a central clearinghouse of prototypical school  
15 facility designs for access by school entities.

16 (2) In order to receive the State reimbursement factor  
17 provided for in section 2574, a school entity must use a  
18 prototype design in the construction of school facilities.

19 (3) The department may exempt a school entity from

1 participating in the program for a particular project, if the  
2 school entity demonstrates that:

3 (i) the designs in the clearinghouse are not feasible for  
4 that particular project due to specific geographic or other  
5 limitations of that area; or

6 (ii) the project involves remodeling, rehabilitating or  
7 expanding an existing structure.

8 The department shall provide notice to a school entity that is  
9 exempt from using a design in the clearinghouse under this  
10 paragraph. The notice shall also be made available to the public  
11 by the school entity.

12 (4) The Department of Education shall compile necessary  
13 publications and a computer database to make the information on  
14 prototype designs available for review to school entities and  
15 the public at large.

16 (5) For purposes of this section, the Department of  
17 Education shall divide this Commonwealth into the following  
18 regions: northwest, northeast, southeast, southwest, north  
19 central and south central. The department shall designate which  
20 counties are in which region by grouping counties together based  
21 on geographic proximity.

22 (b) Design professionals registered in this Commonwealth may  
23 submit plans for inclusion in the computer database that have  
24 been submitted and approved by the Department of Education in  
25 accordance with section 731. The original design professional of  
26 record shall retain ownership of a prototype design.

27 Prototypical school facility designs submitted shall include  
28 information that the Department of Education determines is  
29 necessary and appropriate to facilitate this section.

30 (c) The Department of Education shall review and evaluate

plans submitted pursuant to this section for inclusion in the clearinghouse using standards which promote the following:

(1) The use of design principles to achieve the highest standards of health, safety, accessibility, environmental protection and energy efficiency.

(2) The academic and technological needs of students.

(3) The use of cost-effective design and construction techniques, including the use of straight-line, right-angle design principles and avoiding the use of curved and nonsymmetrical design.

(4) The use of design principles that allow for expansion of school facilities to accommodate future growth in student population.

(5) The use of durable materials in construction.

(6) The preservation of open space.

(d) The department shall group the designs accepted for the clearinghouse by the regions established under subsection (a)(5), based on energy needs for heating and cooling, building size, average school entity population in the region, layout of the building, whether one story or multiple stories, and structural requirements due to climatic or geographic difficulties.

(e) The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall conduct a study of the department's program to determine the savings incurred by school entities that have participated in the program. The study shall be conducted at the conclusion of the fifth year of operation and shall include program participation for the five-year period from inspection until its fifth anniversary. The study shall be presented within six months of its commencement to chairpersons of the Education

1 Committee of the Senate and the Education Committee of the House  
2 of Representatives.

3 (f) The Department of Education shall adopt rules necessary  
4 to implement this section.

5 (g) As used in this section, the term "school entity" means  
6 a school district, intermediate unit, area vocational-technical  
7 school or charter school operating within this Commonwealth  
8 under provisions of this act.

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 180 days.